

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**

**Public Notice/Application No.:** 2004-00615-SDM

**Comment Period:** October 18, 2004 through November 17, 2004

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**Applicant**

Flood Control District Maricopa County  
Mr. Robert B. Stevens  
2801 West Durango Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85009  
(602) 506-4073

**Location**

In the Sonoqui Wash, tributary to the Queen Creek, at (Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, T2S, R6E, and Sections 19, 20, 29, T2S, R7E), Maricopa County, Arizona. Hydrologic Unit Code 15050100 – Middle Gila.

**Activity**

To discharge dredged and/or fill material into 29.4 acres in order to channelize approximately four miles of the existing Sonoqui Wash to convey the 100-year flows and provide adequate flood protection. For more information, see page 3 of this notice and attached drawings.

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Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit application will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Comments can be e-mailed to [sallie.mcguire@usace.army.mil](mailto:sallie.mcguire@usace.army.mil) or mailed to:

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTENTION: Regulatory Branch (2004-00615-SDM)  
3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 900  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1939**

## **Evaluation Factors**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

## **Preliminary Review of Selected Factors**

**EIS Determination-** A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

**Water Quality-** The applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For any proposed activity on land other than Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers.

**Cultural Resources-** A cultural resources survey was conducted for the project area in February 2004. No sites were found that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

**Endangered Species-** Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity would not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does not appear to be required at this time.

**Public Hearing-** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

### **Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required**

The Sonoqui Wash Channelization project will extend from 1,000 feet downstream of Chandler Heights Road to Higley Road. The construction of the channel will include filling in the existing channel and reconstructing a wider natural earthen channel. The project will impact approximately 29.4 acres of the Sonoqui Wash, which is nearly the entire area delineated by the Corps of Engineers. The entire project area, which includes recreational and aesthetic components, is approximately 90 acres.

### **Additional Project Information**

The Sonoqui Wash (also known as the Sanokai Wash) is an ephemeral channel that originates in Pinal County and flows west until it joins Queen Creek. The plant community in the project area is characterized as Sonoran Desertscrub. The project area contains mesquite, salt cedar, desert broom, palo verde, creosote and various shrubs in low to medium density. No wetlands were delineated within the project area.

The overall project purpose is to provide flood protection for present and future development along Sonoqui Wash. The basic project purpose is flood control, which is not water dependent.

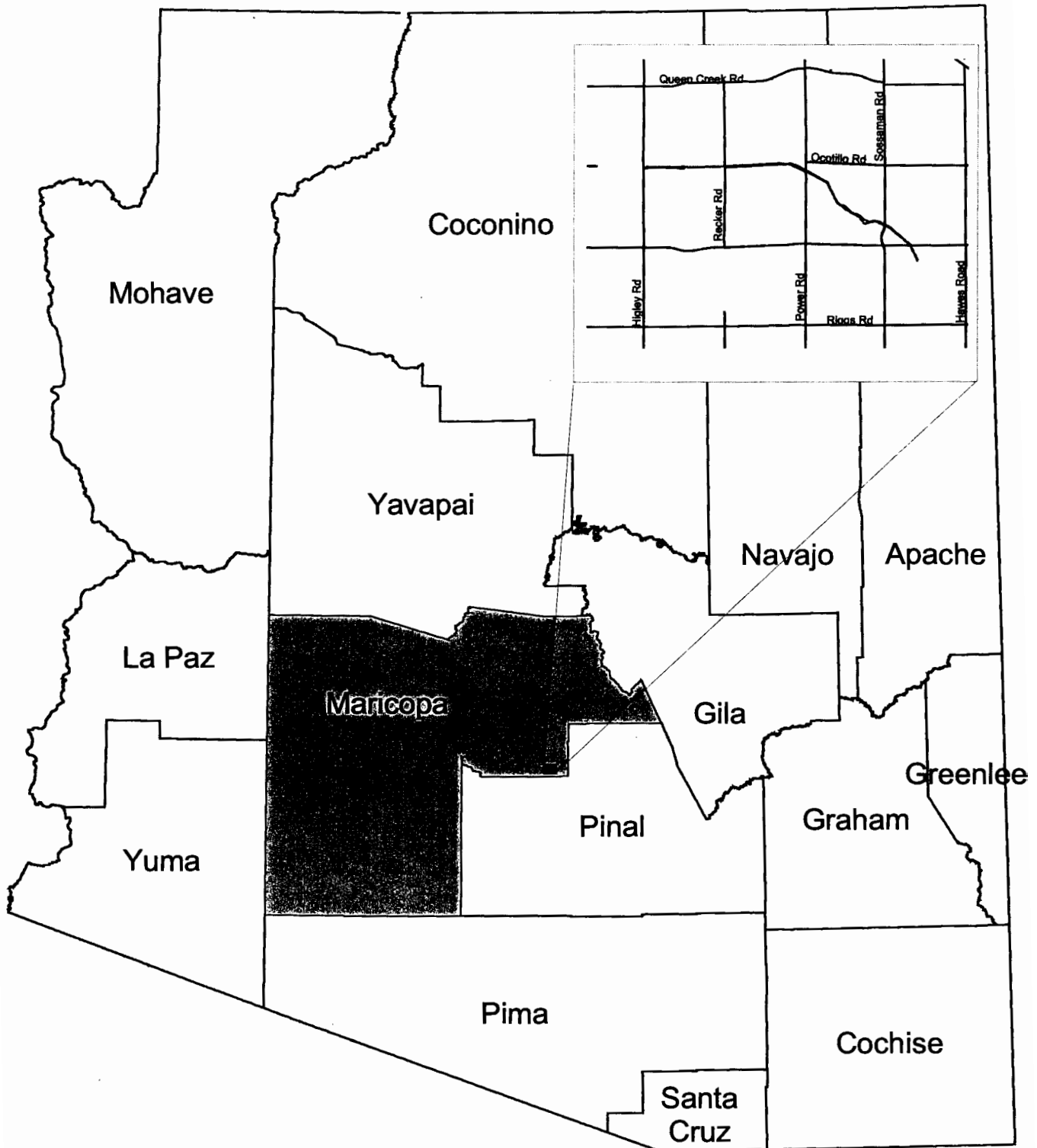
### **Proposed Special Conditions**

To be developed.

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For additional information please call Sallie D. McGuire at (602) 640-5385. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.

# Project Location in Arizona



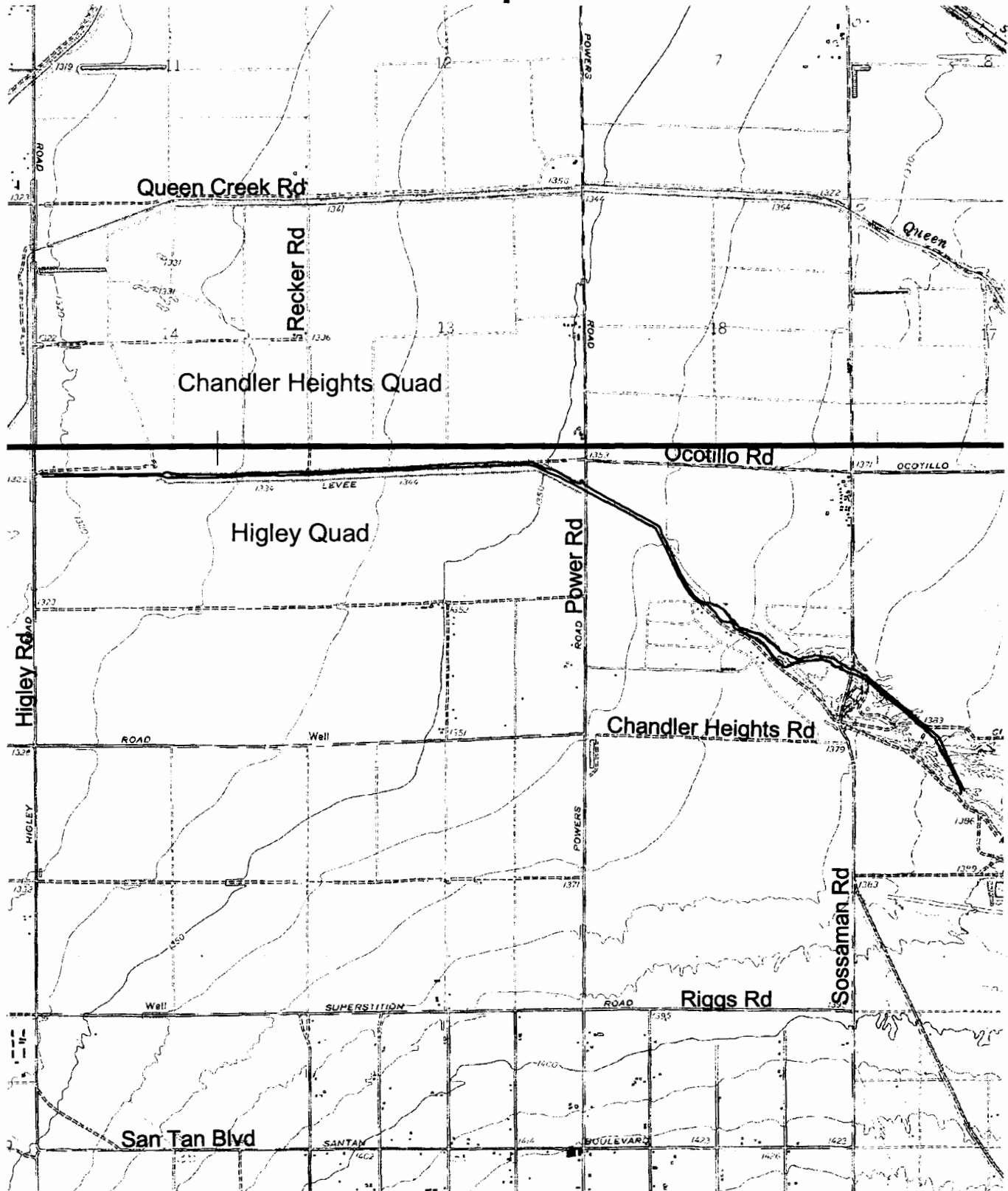
404 Jurisdictional Impacts for Sonoqui Wash  
Flood Control District of Maricopa County  
April 2004



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Figure 1 of 3




Not to Scale  
For Location Only

# 404 Jurisdictional Impacts for Sonoqui Wash



 USGS Quad Sheet Boundary  
 Sonoqui Wash 404 WUS Delineation

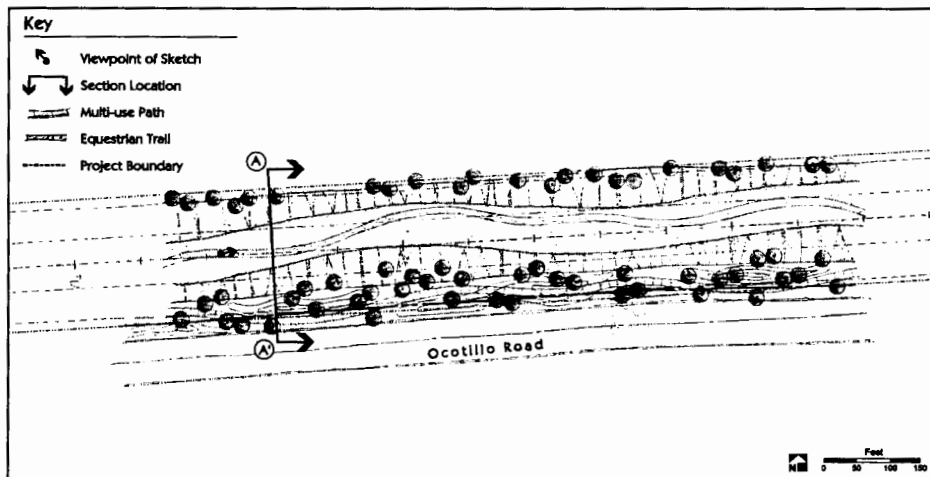
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Figure 2 of 3

2000 0 2000 Feet  


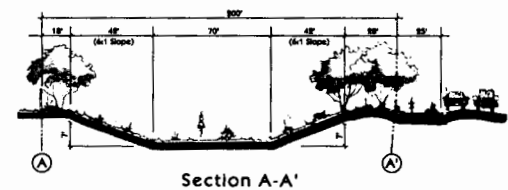




# SONOQUI WASH CHANNELIZATION



Sketch



## Reach 2

4:1 to 8:1 Side Slopes

June 2004

Example of configuration of proposed project  
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Figure 3 of 3